

# Exhibit 9

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## News Release

**David Valdez Appointed Senior Vice President of Verizon West****May 3, 2006****Media Contact:****Kevin Lavery, 425-261-5855**[Register  
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**EVERETT, Wash.** - Verizon Communications has appointed David Valdez as senior vice president for Verizon West. He will be responsible for the company's regulatory and legislative initiatives in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

In addition, Valdez will oversee Verizon's community relations and grants from the Verizon Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm, to nonprofit organizations in the region.

Colleen McCloskey, Verizon senior vice president for state public affairs, policy and communications, said, "In today's dynamic communications marketplace, where consumers have so many choices, we need skilled executives to keep Verizon ahead of the competition. David Valdez is well-steeped in telecommunications, understands the needs of this important region, and has significant leadership experience. He will do an excellent job for Verizon and the many communities we serve."

Based in Everett, Valdez has been vice president for public policy and external affairs for the Northwest for the past two years. Previously, he was the company's chief privacy officer.

Valdez earned degrees from Georgetown University Law Center and Rutgers School of Law, and a B.A. from California State University, Northridge.

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ), a Dow 30 company, is a leader in delivering broadband and other communication innovations to wireline and wireless customers. Verizon operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving 53 million customers nationwide; one of the most expansive wholly-owned global IP networks; and one of the nation's premier wireline networks, serving mass market and wholesale customers. Based in New York, Verizon has a diverse workforce of more than 250,000 and generates annual consolidated operating revenues of approximately \$90 billion. For more information, visit [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com).

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